

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 /070 W  
-----008767 292103Z /75

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4290  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 06874

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU COMMENTS ON MINORITY LANGUAGE RIGHTS

FOLLOWING TEXT FROM JULY 28 PRESS CONFERENCE OF PM TRUDEAU  
REPORTED VERBATIM SINCE IT REPRESENTS SUCCINCTLY TRUDEAU  
VIEWS ON PROTECTION OF MINORITY LANGUAGE RIGHTS, PARTI-  
CULARLY IN EDUCATION. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.  
BEGIN QUOTE. ... LET ME REPEAT OUR GENERAL POLICY STANCE.  
IT IS THAT THE PROVINCES SHOULD, WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION  
OF EDUCATION, SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE MINORITY RIGHTS OF THE  
ENGLISH AND FRENCH SPEAKING POPULATIONS IN THEIR PROVINCES.  
WE DEFINE THIS AS A MATTER OF RIGHT. WE HAVE REALIZED  
THAT THIS COULD WITH ADVANTAGE LIKE OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS BE  
ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND WE HAVE PROPOSED, BACK  
IN '71, IN VICTORIA, AND WE HAVE PROPOSED AGAIN IN A  
RECENT EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH ALL OF THE  
PREMIERS INCLUDING PREMIER LEVESQUE THAT IF THEY WERE  
REALLY CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING THE LINGUISTIC MINORITY  
IN THEIR PROVINCE THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN ENSHRINING  
IT IN A CONSTITUTION, THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION, SO THIS  
REMAINS OUR POSITION.

WE TABLED A POLICY PAPER ON LANGUAGE ABOUT A MONTH  
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AGO WHERE WE SAID WE HOPED THE PROVINCES WOULD COME TO  
THIS CONCLUSION. WE WERE, IN A SENSE, RESPONDING TO BILL  
1 OR BILL 101 OF QUEBEC WHICH WAS NOT RECOGNIZING THE  
RIGHTS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS AND PARTICULARLY THO-  
SE WHO MOVE INTO QUEBEC SO WE SAID WE HOPED THAT THE  
PROVINCES WILL DO THIS. IF THEY FIND SOME DIFFICULTY IN  
DOING IT, WE ARE PREPARED TO DO IT OURSELVES WITH OUR OWN

FINANCIAL RESOURCES IF THEY GIVE US CONSITUTIONAL JURIS-  
DICTION TO DO SO, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT I WOULDN'T  
WANT TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH  
THE PROVINCES BECAUSE I THINK MR. LEVESQUE'S INITIATIVE  
PROVES THAT HE, TOO, REALIZES THAT HE WAS DEAD WRONG IN  
HIS BILL 101 OR IN HIS BILL 1.

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YOU KNOW, HE IS IN THE EMBARRASSING POSITION OF  
SEEING THAT SOME OF HIS MINISTERS HAVE PUSHED HIM TOO FAR  
AND HE IS SEEKING A WAY OUT. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE PQ  
TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN SAYING YOU KNOW THE FRANCOPHONE  
MINORITY IN THE OTHER PROVINCES, "WE DON'T CARE ABOUT  
THEM." THIS HAS BEEN THEIR POSITION. "WE HAVE GOT TO  
SEPARATE AND TOUGH LUCK. THEY WILL LOOK AFTER THEM-  
SELVES". THIS WAS TO GIVE THEMSELVES FREE REIN TO DO  
WHAT THEY WANTED, THE PQ, WITH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
MINORITY IN QUEBEC.

WELL, WE SAID THAT THIS POSITION WAS NOT RIGHT AND I  
THINK MANY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND I THINK THAT MANY  
PEOPLE IN QUEBEC HAVE SAID THAT THIS IS NOT RIGHT AND  
THAT MR. LEVESQUE IS LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT FROM THE DEAD  
END THAT HIS MINISTERS HAVE PUT HIM INTO. HE IS SAYING,  
WELL, YOU KNOW, WE WILL RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF THE  
ANGLOS IN OUR PROVINCE PROVIDING THE DOTHER PROVINCES DO  
THE SAME. WELL, MR. HATFIELD SAYS WELL, WE ARE DOING THE  
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SAME. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MR. DAVIS SAYS, WELL,  
WE WANT TO DO THE SAME, TOO. WE HAVE BEEN MAKING PRO-  
GRESS, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU KNOW, WHY TALK  
ABOUT BARGAINING LIKE THIS? IF YOU THINK YOUR LAW IS  
WRONG, MR. LEVESQUE, CHANGE YOUR LAW. THAT IS WHAT I  
SAY. AND TO ME HE IS TRYING TO GET OUT OF A BAD  
SITUATION.

NOW, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL  
CONFERENCES WHICH MIGHT BE HELD ON THIS, WHAT THE  
PREMIERS THEMSELVES WILL SAY AT THEIR MEETING IN A COUPLE  
OF WEEKS' TIME IN, I THINK IT IS, ST. ANDREWS IN NEW  
BRUNSWICK, I CAN'T PREDICT BUT I DO KNOW THAT IF THEY  
DON'T AGREE TO SOME SUCH PROPOSITION AS THE ONE THAT WE  
HAVE BEEN PUTTING TO THEM, THEN WE WILL HAVE A FEDERAL-  
PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THEM. IF THEY  
DO AGREE, WELL, SO MUCH WELL AND GOOD. WE WILL PROBABLY  
HAVE A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE A VERY  
FORWARD-LODKING ONE AND WE WILL COME OUT OF IT RECOG-  
NIZING THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITIES AS A MATTER OF RIGHT  
AND NOT AS A BARGAINING POINT. END QUOTE. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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